

REMARKS

I. Introduction

Applicants appreciate the willingness of Examiners Pitaro and Kincaid to conduct a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney on June 15, 2005. The following paragraphs contain a summary of the substance of that interview.

II. Withdrawn Claims 43-55

Withdrawn Claims 43-55 have been cancelled to put this application in condition for allowance.

III. 35 U.S.C. § 101 Rejections

Claims 1-31 and 65-68 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101. To clarify that the methods recited in the claims are executed by a processor, Applicants have amended the preambles of the pending independent claims (Claims 1, 65, 72, 78, and 82) to recite “A method executed by a processor.” During the telephone interview, it was agreed that this amendment would overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 101 rejections.

IV. 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph, Rejections

The dependent claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for using the phrase “the invention” instead of “the method.” In response to this rejection, Applicants have amended the dependent claims to recite “the method” instead of “the invention.” In view of these amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejections have been overcome.

V. Rejections Against Independent Claims 1, 65, 72, and 78

Independent Claims 1, 65, 72, and 78 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,893,105 to MacLennan. Act (d) of each of these claims recites

identifying at least some of the cells in a path to a user.¹ During the interview, the Examiners stated that MacLennan teaches this act by displaying the entire flowchart in Figure 1 since the cells along one path (e.g., cells 40, 41, and 43) are identified, albeit along with all of the cells not in the path (e.g., cell 42). To clarify the claims, Applicants have amended independent Claims 1, 65, 72, and 78 to state that the recited “at least some of the cells in the path” are identified in a way that distinguishes those cells from at least some of the other cells in the flowchart that are not in the path.² The Examiners agreed that this amendment would overcome the rejections based on MacLennan.

In view of the amendments and remarks above and in view of the agreement reached during the telephone interview, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections against independent Claims 1, 65, 72, and 78 and their dependent claims be withdrawn.

VI. Rejection of Independent Claim 82

Independent Claim 82 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by allClear. During the telephone interview, the Examiner explained that “Figure 6 item 20” and “Figure 6 item 25” cited in the Office Action refers to the left-hand side and right-hand side, respectively, of the figure shown on page 9 of Applicants’ First Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement. The figure shown on page 9 shows a first display region displaying a flowchart and a second display region displaying a textual view of cells along a path in the flowchart. It was agreed during the telephone interview that this figure does not show that input

¹ Independent Claim 1 has been amended to recite that at least some of the cells in a path are identified to a user (in act (d)) and that the selection of a cell is received from a user (in act (b)).

² The language added to independent Claim 78 makes explicit the result that necessarily follows from the existing recitation.

is received in the second display region and applied to the first display region. However, the Examiners were concerned that the “second display region” referred to in act (c) could be read broadly to cover the right-hand side of any of the figures — even those where the right-hand side does not display a textual view of cells along a single path.

The Examiners indicated that independent Claim 82 would be patentable over allClear if it recited that the acts of displaying the textual view of at least some of the cells along the single path in the second display region and receiving the input in the second display region occur simultaneously. In accordance with that indication, Applicants have amended act (b) in independent Claim 82 as suggested by the Examiners. As discussed, “simultaneously” simply refers to the fact that the input is received in the second display region while the second display region displays the textual view of at least some of the cells along the single path. It should be understood that “simultaneously” does not require that the input be received at the exact moment that the textual view is displayed or that the textual view cannot be displayed if input is not received. To make this clear, Applicants have further amended act (b) in independent Claim 82 to recite what is meant by “simultaneously” — that the input is received in the second display region while the second display region displays the textual view of at least some of the cells along the single path. Act (c) has also been amended to make clear that the input referred to therein is the input received in (b) (i.e., received in the second display region while the second display region displays the textual view of at least some of the cells along the single path).

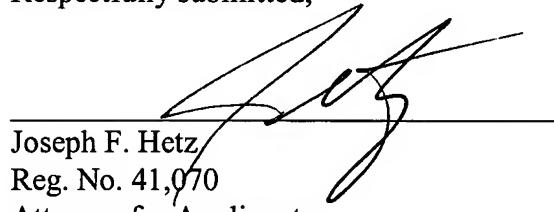
In view of the amendments and remarks above and in view of the agreement reached during the telephone interview, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections against independent Claim 82 and its dependent claims be withdrawn.

VII. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks and the agreement reached during the telephone interview, Applicants submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. It should be noted that while the above remarks have focused only on certain elements of the independent claims, other elements of the independent claims (and the dependent claims) provide additional grounds of patentability. Applicants reserve the right to present arguments concerning these additional grounds at a later time, if necessary. If there are any questions concerning this Amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at (312) 321-4719.

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Respectfully submitted,


Joseph F. Hetz
Reg. No. 41,070
Attorney for Applicants

BRINKS HOFER
GILSON & LIONE
P.O. Box 10395
Chicago, Illinois 60610
(312) 321-4719